

For an eleven member group, Thomas Mapfumo and Blacks Unlimited from Zimbabwe sure are quiet which is one of their strong points. The light floating guitar of Ephraim Karimaura intertwines with two trumpets and saxophone over keyboards, bass drums and congas as Mapfumo, soulful and somewhat gruff chants, hums and caresses his songs of justice of freedom, echoed by two singers whose divine harmonies reach towards ecstasy. The result is a hypnotic experience which transports you to someplace else. Live it should be twice as good.

Thomas Mapfumo and Blacks Unlimited with This Is It!: Fri., July 10 at 9 p.m. at the Chestnut Cabaret, 38th and Chestnut Sts., 382-1201.

--Peter Brown